

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Party and Government Changes in the RPR	DATE DISTR.	8 Nov. 1955 25X1
		NO. OF PAGES	3
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information	

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1. At a special session of the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic (RPR) on 3 October 1955, the resignation of Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej from the post of President of the Council of Ministers was announced. Gheorghiu-Dej has held this office since 2 June 1952. Chivu Stoica, a first vice president, was elected to the Presidency. 25X1
 2. At the same meeting, Emil Bodnaras, Petre Borila and Miron Constantinescu were up-graded from vice presidents of the Council of Ministers to first vice presidents, relinquishing their respective jobs as Minister of Armed Forces, Minister of Food Industry and Minister of State Planning. They were succeeded in these jobs by the respective former assistant ministers.
 3. Constantinescu's successor, Alexandru Birladeanu, was appointed a vice president of the Council of Ministers. Foreign Minister Simion Bughici and Finance Minister Dumitru Petrescu were also appointed vice presidents, their former ministerial jobs being taken over by assistant ministers.
 4. Chivu Stoica was replaced in his former job of Minister of Metallurgy and Machine Building by an assistant minister in that Ministry. Iosif Chisinevski resigned from the Council of Ministers. Stefan Voitec, apparently a newcomer in the Government but believed to be a member of the Party Central Committee, replaced Mircea Oprisan as Minister of Domestic Trade. 25X1
- On a slightly lower level, both Iduba Chisinevski and Nicolae Ceausescu resigned from the Grand National Assembly.
5. It appears, at first glance, that practically everybody received a promotion. Some observers attached significance to the fact that both the Chisinevskis are now out of the Government, momentarily losing sight of the fact that it is the Party which runs the Government. It is, however, misleading not to consider the Government changes in the light of the Party changes announced at the Plenary session of 30 September and 1 October 1955.

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6. In the Plenary session, among other things, it was announced that Gheorghiu-Dej was elected First Secretary of the Central Committee and Iosif Chisinevski was elected Secretary; Gheorghe Apostol was appointed President of the C.C.S. (Trade Unions); and, the Second Party Congress is to be convened on 23 December 1955. The order of the day would include a report by Gheorghiu-Dej on the activities of the Central Committee and a report by Ceausescu on the modification of the Party statutes. Subsequent reports indicate that Liuba Chisinevski still retains her position as Secretary of the C.C.S. as well as her membership on the Party Central Committee, and that Ceausescu is still a Secretary of the Central Committee.
7. The following conclusions may be drawn from these shifts:
 - a. Gheorghiu-Dej is still the "number one" man in Rumania;
 - b. There has been no real power shift;
 - c. There is no rift between Gheorghiu-Dej and Chisinevski, as is sometimes rumored; and
 - d. Apostol, who has held down the post of Party First Secretary since 19 April 1954 and now returns to his former job, has not received a demotion.
8. Gheorghiu-Dej now occupies the same position as that held by Khrushchev in the Soviet Union, a position which Dej held before but relinquished in favor of Apostol in 1954. It is thought by observers that from April 1954 until the recent shift, Gheorghiu-Dej and Iosif Chisinevski were engaged almost exclusively in Government matters, mainly that of putting Rumanian economy on its feet, and that this has now been accomplished to the Rumanian, or the Soviet Union's, satisfaction. Now that conditions are improved, the "first team" can devote itself to what really counts -- Party matters.
9. It is difficult to see how these two men could work closely together in the Government and now again in the Party if there was any serious rift between them. Apostol's tenure as Party First Secretary can be explained by the fact that he is Gheorghiu-Dej's executive [redacted] and that while Dej and Chisinevski were trying to keep the country running, Apostol was entrusted with temporary control of the Party.
10. Considering the coming of the Second Party Congress, the job held by Apostol as President of the C.C.S, a job involving "activation" and "agitation" of the estimated 2,500,000 Trade Union members, is of no small importance and certainly Gheorghiu-Dej would want a trusted man in what amounts to a key post at this time.
11. Some observers speculate that the shifts are the result of Khrushchev's visit to Rumania on 22 August 1955, and this seems entirely possible. If the groundwork is really being laid for some "surprise" changes to be announced at the time of the Congress, there are certainly no indications or rumors to that effect now.
12. An aspect of the shift which is small, but which emphasizes how little the average person under the regime knows, or probably cares, about the leading

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political figures is that few Rumanians appear to know the last or family name of the new Premier. Most Rumanians insist that his last name is Stoica although the Rumanian Foreign Office has revealed that his last name is actually Chivu. If mention is made of his name, it would be both correct and understandable to refer to him as the Rumanian press does, as Chivu Stoica, using both names in that order.

13. The session of the Grand National Assembly of 3 October 1955 was held in a room arranged rather like a small theater, with the platform placed in the position of the stage, and a semi-circle of three tiers of boxes facing the platform. The President of the Grand National Assembly, Constantin Pirvulescu, flanked by the two vice presidents, conducted proceedings from the platform. To his right, facing inboard, was the bench for members of the Presidium, headed by Petre Groza and Mihail Sadoveanu, the writer, both looking very prosperous and well-dressed in light grey suits, in contrast to the rather somber appearance of the deputies.
14. To the left of the platform, also facing inboard, were the ministerial benches, with the ministers, headed by Gheorghiu-Dej, seated in order of precedence. Apostol, though he in fact holds no post in the Government other than being a deputy, was seated in third place, after Chisinevski. The deputies were seated according to the regions they represented, facing the platform. After some preliminary matters were taken care of, including the unanimous passage of a number of laws, Pirvulescu read the letter announcing the resignation of Gheorghiu-Dej. Following this, Dej went up to the podium and made a short speech. Dej, who was neatly dressed in a dark suit, makes rather a good appearance. He has a quiet, modest, unassuming manner. There is a sympathetic and humane air about him, in which, perhaps, lies his appeal. It is somehow difficult to picture him in the role of the astute politician. He received what appeared to be a sincere ovation both before and after his speech; he tried several times to stop the applause which continued for some time. Chivu Stoica spoke after Gheorghiu-Dej.
15. It is difficult to form any impression of these leading personalities on these occasions. Their appearance is mask-like, When Stoica stepped up to the microphones on the podium and began to speak, he immediately seemed to achieve stature and the impression was gained that he was at last taking over a job that he very much wanted. Whereas Pirvulescu was practically inaudible, and Gheorghiu-Dej was difficult to hear, Stoica boomed out his speech with force and clarity. He almost gave the impression of being a "strong man"; he looked as if he knew what he wanted and was out to get it. It is possible that he will constitute a threat to Gheorghiu-Dej sometime in the future.

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